Boys' Latin

OF PHILADELPHIA Charter School

WC: 10-222

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
Application to the E-Rate Deployed Ubiquitously 2011 Pilot Program

December 17, 2010

Introduction

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School is a college preparatory high school dedicated to the development of confident and independent learners who will be actively engaged as global citizens in an interdependent world. In only its fourth year of operation, the school has established an excellent reputation for its rigorous, disciplined college preparatory high school program. Boys' Latin enrolls 461 students in grades 9 through 12. With its small student body and 13:1 student/teacher ratio, Boys' Latin offers an intimate learning community in which each young man is encouraged to be "the architect of his own fortune" by pursuing excellence across a range of endeavors. The Boys' Latin curriculum, which blends traditional and progressive elements, is enhanced by extensive support services and extra-curricular programs. **In September of 2009, Boys' Latin's Afterschool Program was named the best in the region by Philadelphia Magazine in its *Best of Philly Schools* issue.**

Situated on a 3-acre campus in West Philadelphia, Boys' Latin is ideally suited for its numerous project-based learning opportunities, career exploration initiatives, and community service efforts. The school is located in a former Catholic parish; Boys' Latin has transformed what was a blighted property into a beautiful learning facility that has brought renewed hope and pride throughout the community.

Boys' Latin students attend an extended day of classes (8am -5pm), receive after-school tutoring, and have Saturday classes twice monthly. In addition to rigorous coursework and a safe and supportive environment free of negative labels, the school provides a comprehensive student support system, state of the art technology (including a secure laptop program), and a plethora of student activities that includes but is not limited to sports (football, soccer, basketball, fencing, baseball, tennis, golf, and crew), arts (music, drama, and visual arts), and academically oriented activities (Junior Classics League, Mock Trial).

Boys' Latin has developed a number of partnerships with a wide range of organizations that enhance the academic program, and with community stakeholders and leaders who emphasize the importance of community engagement. Examples of Boys' Latin's partner organizations include Outward Bound, Summer Search, the University of Delaware,

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Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week, the Philadelphia YMCA West, and the University of Pennsylvania's undergraduate and law schools.

Required Information (all applicants)

(1) Description of Wireless Program

To make any curriculum as engaging as possible for high school aged students, technology must play a key role. Technology is not only important to integrate into the classroom environment; it must become a way of life for Boys' Latin students if they are to succeed in higher education and beyond. The young men who attend Boys' Latin come from low-income households, and many do not have access to a computer or the internet at home.

Research has proven that computer access during and after the school day leads to increased academic outcomes for students. Students with internet access at home perform significantly better on standardized tests than those without internet access.[1] A 2003 study of low-income students (mostly boys) found that greater internet use by the students was significantly associated with higher GPAs and higher performance in reading on standardized tests.[2] Regrettably, it is also well known that African-American, Hispanic, and low socio-economic status students have the least access to technology.[3] There is a significant gap in computer ownership and internet access between African-American and White households.[4] Boys' Latin aims to close this gap for its students.

To that end, Boys' Latin implemented a full laptop program for all students in grades 10 and higher. Beginning in their sophomore year, every Boys' Latin student receives a laptop computer for school and home use. The boys are responsible for their computers throughout their years at Boys' Latin, relinquishing them only during winter holidays and the summer for upgrading and maintenance. Boys' Latin has never lost a laptop in the program's four year history, thanks to the installation of Lo-Jack on each unit.

Providing computers to students created an entirely new way of learning and communicating for the entire Boys' Latin community. Students access a multitude of online resources with their computers. All of their school books (except Latin) are accessible online, along with supplementary materials. For students with reading disabilities, the books can be read to them through the publisher's website. Students access their homework online and correspond

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[1] Fuchs, T. & Woessmann, L. (2004). Computers and student learning: Bivariate and multivariate evidence on the availability and use of computers at home and at school. Ifo Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich.

[2] Jackson, L.A., von Eye, A., Biocca, F.A. (2003). *Does Home Internet Use Influence the Academic Performance of Low-Income Children? Findings from the HomeNetToo Project.* First Latin American Web Congress (LA-WEB'03).

[3] Judge, Sharon (2005). *The impact of computer technology on academic achievement of young African-American children.* Journal of Research in Childhood Education, Association for Childhood Education International.

[4] Judge, Sharon.

with their teachers and peers. Each teacher has their own website where students view the class calendar and assignments, and parents can see their child's grades and attendance. Students can view recorded lessons and take advantage of the school's current (and 2011-2012 expanded) video conferencing and electronic resource systems.

Boys' Latin has five goals for its laptop program:

(1) Engage the broadest number of students in the learning process, no matter what their ability level.

(2) Train students to use laptops throughout the day and at home in all aspects of classroom learning, research, and communication.

(3) Give students access to their school books online, along with supplementary materials.

(4) Train teachers and students to utilize teacher websites to manage the class calendar and assignments.

(5) Purchase the most current and useful electronic equipment and educational software in the industry.

The laptop program supports the overall technology curriculum at the school. Every student takes four years of technology classes at the school, in addition to their core subjects. Having laptops enables students to meet the goals of the technology curriculum more fully by giving them daily, hands-on practice. The expectation is that every Boys' Latin student will graduate skilled in internet research, software use, hardware and equipment familiarity, and the most current electronic communication tools.

Unfortunately, the laptop program is most effective only during the school day. When students go home in the evenings and on the weekends, approximately 45% of them do not have internet access. This causes a tremendous school-wide problem, because the program is designed to enable students to use their laptops for both school and homework. Each night and on the weekends, students need to use the internet to access their online books, check teacher website postings, submit homework, contact teachers, and conduct online research. With nearly half the student body unable to access the internet at home, the laptop program can never realize its full capacity.

To resolve this issue, Boys' Latin would like to purchase Wireless Mobile Cards and service for all students who receive laptops. Nearly half of the students do not have internet access at home because their families cannot afford it, so Boys' Latin will need to absorb the service and equipment costs for the students.

For students who do not have internet access at home, participating in the mandatory laptop program can be quite a chore. Currently, students who do not have home internet access have to try and do all of their online work at school, staying late (which means after 5:00pm most days) or coming in early in the morning. This is not always a safe option, as the neighborhood surrounding Boys' Latin is one of the highest-crime areas in the city of Philadelphia. Boys' Latin students have been attacked many times by adults and students from the neighborhood public high school. On the weekends, the school is only open for three hours every other Saturday, so students have to find other means to do their weekend online work. Giving students Wireless Mobile Cards will put them all on a level playing field.

(2) Poverty Level

The poverty level at Boys' Latin is 76%, based on last year's surveys. This puts the school at the 90% discount rate.

(3) Financial Need

Charter Schools receive less per pupil funding than do traditional district schools. Charters therefore rely on private funding or special government grants to provide the best academic and extra-curricular programs to their students. Boys' Latin is no exception. Boys' Latin does not have operating funds to fully implement this program on its own. The school is raising private (and now e-rate) funds for its laptop program and off-site wireless connectivity.

(4) Wireless Program Costs

The approximate budget for the 2011-2012 laptop program, including wireless connectivity, is as follows. The dollar amounts for the Wireless Access Cards and service are based on market research, but are subject to a competitive bidding process. The budget assumes that 150 laptops would need to be purchased for the new sophomore class.

Per Laptop Cost:

Basic Warranty: Next Business Day Parts and Labor onsite (3 years)
Complete Care Accidental Damage Protection (3 years)
Dell Latitude 2110 Netbook
10.1 in. HD TrueLife LED Display
2 GB RAM
160 GB Hard Drive
Windows 7 Professional $650.00 x 150 = $97,500.00

Miscellaneous Items:

Parts and Software $12,000.00

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Absolute Lo-jack (3 years) $15,000.00

Off-Site Wireless Access:

Wireless Access Cards: $49.99 x 353 students = $17,646.47
Service: $27.50/month[5] x 353 students = $97,075.00

TOTAL: **$239,221.47**

(5) Committed Resources

A total of **$124,500.00** in private funds has been committed for this project, specifically for the purchase of the new laptop computers. With the potential help of the e-rate program, Boys' Latin will be left to raise $18,000.00 in additional private funds to purchase the wireless access cards. Boys' Latin is already seeking funding from local individual and foundation supporters for this program.

If funding is limited or not available, Boys' Latin will look to purchase Wireless Access Cards and service for only those students who do not have wireless access in their homes. This will reduce the overall cost of the program.

(6) Effect of EDU2011 Support

The support of EDU2011 will make or break this program. It is not likely that the school would be able to raise enough funds from private sources to provide off-site internet access to all students. If Boys' Latin receives funding for this program, it will mean a world of difference to the school. As discussed earlier in this proposal, EDU2011's support would put all students on a level playing field. It would give a few hundred students the opportunity to work and research in new ways that they currently do not have access to. It would mean that Boys' Latin's laptop program could truly benefit all of its students equally.

(7) Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Boys' Latin is unaware of any other types of technology that would allow the laptop program to work for all students as efficiently as possible. In the long run, Wireless Access Cards are the most cost-effective way to give every student unlimited internet access. Even providing antiquated dial-up or DSL service for each student's home would be more expensive in terms of monthly bills and utility.

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[5] September through June

(8) Technology Planning Documents

Boys' Latin devised a three-year Technology Plan that addresses all technology goals and usage. The plan's relevant goals for the laptop program are as follows:

Skill	Measure of Competency
Research Proficiency	Access the Internet for information and evaluate its content for use. Access and use online communications.
Software Mastery	Create presentations using printed text, graphics, charts and graphs. Analyze and present data using an electronic spreadsheet. Organize, copy, delete and move files and data. Prove expertise in Microsoft Office.
Familiarity with Hardware and Equipment	Demonstrate knowledge about technology hardware such as computer, VCR, DVD, phone, fax, digital storage/playback units and their uses.
Capacity for Changing Technology	Demonstrate an awareness of new and emerging applications of technology such as video conferencing, Internet telephony and broadcast video applications.

(9) CIPA Compliance

This school year, Boys' Latin will conduct a public hearing as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act. Boys' Latin will follow all CIPA requirements for conducting an open, public meeting and sharing the Acceptable Use and other policies with students, parents, staff, and community members.

If Boys' Latin receives funding for off-premises wireless connectivity, the school leaders will revise the Acceptable Use policy to include instructions for using the internet with school laptops off-site. These modifications will be included in the CIPA public hearing.

(10) Policies and Procedures

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School has an Acceptable Use Policy that is signed by every student and his parent. The current policy is as follows. It will be updated to include policies for off-premises internet use.

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
Acceptable Use Policy
The Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School's local-area network provides faculty, staff, and students with access to an assortment of instructional technology resources. The intent of this policy is to ensure that all users of the Boys' Latin network are consistent to the established purpose of its implementation.

Purpose
The purpose of the Boys' Latin network is to advance and promote educational opportunities, innovation and educational excellence, and to provide students and teachers access to a worldwide array of educational resources. Access to the resources on the network will improve learning and teaching through research, teacher training, collaboration, and dissemination of successful educational practices, methods, and materials.

Internet Safety Policy
In order to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act, this document will serve as Boys' Latin's Internet Safety Policy. Boys' Latin has a firewall in place and software that blocks and filters Internet sites that are obscene, contain pornography, or contain any materials deemed by the school's standards to be inappropriate or harmful to our students.
Boys' Latin reserves the right to monitor all use of its network, including, but not limited to: instant messaging, email, and online activities.

- Students should never reveal any identifying information such as last names, ages, addresses, phone numbers, or pictures, unless approved by a teacher to meet a course requirement.
- Students should immediately tell their teacher, if they received a message that they believe is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Staff members should immediately tell their supervisor, if they received a message that they believe is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Users should never share a password or use anyone else's password. If a user suspects that someone has discovered his password, he should change it immediately and notify his teacher, if a student, or supervisor, if it is a staff member.

Use of the Boys' Latin Network
The Boys' Latin of Philadelphia's large-area network shall be used in a manner consistent with this policy and stated purposes of the Boys' Latin network, the administrative rules for using the network, and with the school's Code of Conduct, if it is a student.
Users are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible, ethical, and polite manner while using the network. Boys' Latin has taken the necessary precautions to eliminate inappropriate material; however, it is also recognized that it is impossible to restrict all access to all

inappropriate materials. Staff and student access to the Internet is provided with the understanding that some material that can be accesses through the internet may be inaccurate; and that some sites may contain material that is deemed contrary to fact or inappropriate for classroom use. **Access to such resources will not be permitted.** If such inappropriate material is inadvertently encountered, it shall be the user's responsibility to log off the page immediately.

Responsibilities
Access to the Boys' Latin Network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right, extended by Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School to staff, students, and others for the purposes stated above. The school has the right to restrict or terminate network access, and/or take disciplinary action up to suspension or expulsion (students) or dismissal (staff) if an individual violates this policy. The school further has the right to monitor network activity in any form it sees fit to maintain the integrity of the information network.
Users have the responsibility to respect and protect the rights of other users in our network community and on the Internet, and in compliance with the laws of Pennsylvania and the United States.

Network Usage Guidelines
This policy does not attempt to articulate all requires or proscribed behavior by users of the network. In any specific situation, we rely upon each individual's judgment of appropriate conduct. To assist in such judgment, the following general guidelines are offered:
- The Boys' Latin network is to be used for educational purposes only.
- Any use for illegal, political, or commercial purposes is prohibited.
- Use of non school-sponsored chat rooms is prohibited.
- Electronic mail accounts are provided to staff in support of the instructional program and its support services.
- All use of the Internet must be in support of the educational goal of Boys' Latin.
- Network accounts are to be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose.
- No use of the network shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by others; hardware or software shall not be destroyed, modified, or abused in any way.
- Malicious use of the network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computing system and/or damage the software components of a computing system is prohibited.
- Privacy: Network storage areas will be treated like school lockers that can be inspected at any time. Network administrators may review communications to maintain integrity system-wide and ensure that students and staff are using the system in a responsible manner. Users should not have an expectation of privacy or confidentiality in the content of electronic communications or other computer files sent and received on the school

computer network or stored in the user's directory or disk drive. The Boys' Latin system reserves the right to examine all data stored on diskettes involved in the user's use of the Boys' Latin network.

- Storage capacity: Users are expected to remain within allocated disk space and delete email or other material that takes up excessive storage space.
- Illegal copying: Users should neither download nor install any commercial software, shareware, or freeware onto network drives or disks, unless they have written permission from the Boys' Latin Technology Department; nor should they copy other people's work or intrude into other people's files.
- Inappropriate language: No profane, abusive, or impolite language should be used to communicate on the network or on the Internet.
- Inappropriate materials: Accessing, reading, or forwards material that has been deemed inappropriate for educational use is prohibited. Should users encounter such material by accident, they should report such encounters to their teacher immediately.
- Property: Users must respect others privacy and intellectual property. Users are responsible for citing sources and giving credit to authors during the research process. All communication and information accessible via the network should be assumed private property.
- Personal information such as name, telephone numbers, address, school location, or photos should not be exchanged online, unless approved by the teacher for the purpose of meeting a course requirement.

Consequences

While this list is not intended to be exclusive, if a user is found in violation of this Acceptable Use Policy, the consequences imposed could be:

- Up to and including suspension or revocation of network privileges
- Up to and including suspension or revocation of computer access
- Up to and including suspension, revocation, or expulsion from school (students)
- Up to and including dismissal (staff)

The school will advise appropriate law enforcement agencies of suspected illegal activities conducted through the Boys' Latin network.

School Required Information

(1) School Location

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School is located in the West Philadelphia neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

(2) School Name

The school's name is Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School. The Billed Entity Number is 16050077.

(3) School Description

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School is an individual public charter school.

(4) Curriculum Description

Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School serves 463 students in grades 9 through 12. Boys' Latin's curriculum meets all of the required Pennsylvania state academic standards. In addition, every student is required to take four years of Latin language and culture. The school has Advanced Placement courses in English and Art History. Art (including ceramics and mural arts), Music (instrumental and voice), Technology, and Public Speaking are presented as individual classes and woven into the curriculum. The laptop program serves approximately 350 students annually.

The school's overall goals are as follows:

- Prepare students to score proficient or higher on the PSSA Examination.

- Prepare students to score above 400 in each section of the SAT.

- Prepare students to succeed in a four-year college.

(5) Outcome/Achievement Data

Achievement data specific to the laptop and wireless access program has not been collected, since the program has not yet been fully implemented.